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Matsuyama Elementary

Thank you to our teachers, staff and families for supporting our Harvest Festival!



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From the Desk of Principal Montgomery

The theme for this year is change!

Change is good, but it is also painful and frightening for many people. There are those of us that thrive on change and those that avoid it at all cost. Regardless of how we feel about change, it is the one action that leads to growth, progress, and innovation. Alan Watts said: "The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance." I am inviting all of you dive in and join the dance!

In addition to the new common core curriculum the next major changes we need to wrap our heads around is the new report card, assessment process, and conferences. To help with the transition I just wanted to share some highlights. There will be no report cards at the conferences this year. This is an opportunity to share your hopes, dreams, and concerns about your child. Look at grade level expectations, get to know the teacher, and look at some of your students work. As stated in an earlier article the focus of common core is progress towards mastery, the learning journey so to speak. Report cards will not be available until December 19th at the latest!

Students will no longer be receiving A, P, B, BB, or FBB on their report cards. Instead they will receive a rubric score of 1-4 for standards achievement and an O, S, P, N, or NA for learning expectations. Students receiving 4's consistently exceed grade level expectations and demonstrate strong independence. Students receiving a 3 meet grade level expectations and require minimal support. A score of 2 means students are approaching grade level expectations and require moderate support. A score of 1 represents minimal progress towards standards and significant support required. The learning expectations are the substrands of the key standards and are assessed with alpha scores. Students receiving an O show outstanding progress and exceed grade level expectations. An S represents satisfactory performance and is indicative of meeting grade level expectations. Students receiving a score of a P are progressing and are near to meeting the grade level expectations. An N means the student needs improvement and does not meet grade level expectations. The marking of NA means the standards were not addressed in the marking period or are not applicable to the grade level. To further support parents in understanding the new report card the district will be hosting workshops at Serna on October 30th (4:00-5:00 and 6:00-7:00) and November 5th (4:00-5:00 and 6:00-7:00). As instructional technology consultant, speaker, trainer, coach and professional learning specialist, Jaime Vandegrift says. "Embracing change in education isn't about us...It is about them."

Calendar Dates

November

11th No School Veteran's day

12th PTA Reflections Entry Deadline

***Gift Cards fundraisers

No Lunch with a Scholar this month

13-21st Parent teacher conferences/minimum days

21st Last day for the first trimester

24th-28th Thanksgiving break

December

***12th Movie Night

16th PTA General Meeting - (Kindergarten performance)

17th Lunch with a Scholar

20st-Jan 4th No school Winter break

***Not confirmed

Harvest Festival Thanks

Karen Landeck, PTA President

Hello Matsuyama Families,

I wanted to write everyone and thank you for your support with our Harvest Festival. It was such a successful event thanks to our teachers, staff and families. A special thank you to our committee members who made everything run so smoothly. Thank you Rege Farina our co-chairman for all of your work, from unloading those pumpkins, making the cake walk so fun and profitable to managing the whole event. Thank you Irene Nakaoka for being the co-chairman and managing all of the food for the event and always working with grace, kindness and extreme efficiency. Thank you Jen Lightstone who was always there to help with all of the little details, and true Jack of all trades. Thank you Jessica Escobar Zyreck who took over decorations, fixed all of our signs and helped with such pizzazz and goodwill. Thank you to Raquel Beloney who took over tickets and helped with such professionalism and efficiency.

Thank you Pat Willard, aka Ms. Willard's husband, for barbequing. The famous firefighter's grill was a lifesaver, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you to Jeff and Kristen Crawford who were not officially on our committee but did the extra time. Jeff who spent the day setting up and Kristen helped tackle the shopping. Thank you Vicki Farina who helped with the flyers, the brains behind the cake walk and all of the other touches you add. Thank you to Jen Lightstone and Sarah Fowler who helped with the Starbuck's Gallery night. Thank you to our treasurer Susie Lauck, and financial secretary Gina Lindsey, who counted all of the money and work tirelessly all year long keeping our finances in order.

We had so many people that helped with food prep, set up, tickets, booths and cleanup. There were numerous people who signed up and pitched in spontaneously.... I am hesitant to list everyone's names because I know I will miss someone. We set up and finished food prep in record time....many hands did the work. To all of the bakers thank you for all of your sugar! It was a special to have these treats available for the bake sale and the cake walk.

Thank you to Miss Pam, our cafeteria manager, for all of your extra time and hard work in the kitchen to make things go so smoothly, who works always with the love of our students in mind. Thank you to Willie and Zach, our facilities managers for your support to help us with the big mess. The HF generates so much work for you. Thank you to all of the teachers and Matsuyama Staff, the booths make the event and YOU make our school so special. As a parent, I know how lucky I am to have my children attend our school. A special shout out to our teachers, Ms. Spinella and Ms. Gisler, who worked so hard with their kids to do the square dancing that creates special memories for us. Thank you Ms. Montgomery for being so supportive of our PTA all year long, we are a fortunate school to have you as our principal.

Thank you to all of the families that sent monetary donations. And a special thank you to the Taranto Family for their generous donation of the food to our school. They are another example of families that make Matsuyama a better place.

100% of our proceeds went to our classrooms, so my final thank you is to ALL of the families that came out that night. Not only did your financial support made a difference, but with our excellent turnout, the positive energy and warmth of the evening made me grateful to be a part of this community.

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1 Walk to school co-chairs, Ms. Fong and Ms. Chew, 2 Thank you Starbucks Lakecrest Villiage for hosting our gallery night. 3 Ms. Gisler and her watercolor artists, 4. Ms. Jones's class inside the Crocker Art Ark 5. Ms. Gravitz's class, 6. Mr. Alber'ts balloon animals at the HF, 7. HF snowcones, 8. The Taranto Family



Fundraisers/Programs

PTA supports programs like the Crocker Art Ark with proceeds from our fundraiser like Z Best and Innisbrook

Walk to school day is a global event involving more than 40 countries. There was music and healthy snacks upon arrival at school compliments of the Taranto family and SCUSD. Thank you to our chairmen Carolyn Fong and Cherissa Chew. Another success, we had over 400 members join our PTA. Congratulations to Ms. Berry's class for winning the membership contest and a big thank you to Jan Taylor our membership chairman.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Zbest and Innisbrook fundraisers. Zbest had record sales and return rate. A shout out to our coordinators Hiroko Kurosaki and Toni Tinker. At the time of the newsletter deadline, our Innisbrook totals have not been finalized. Delivery is expected the 3rd week of November. Chairmen, Christine Lee and Staci Lai spent many hours working on this fundraiser.

From revenue raised through our fundraisers, the PTA brought the Crocker Art Museum Art Ark to Matsuyama. This year's theme was from the diverse African communities and the Asmat people of New Guinea. Displayed was a dynamic exhibition of sculpture, musical instruments, textiles, and masks. A Crocker museum educator guided Matsuyama students through a one-hour tour of the Art Ark. Thank you to Mary Kwong, our assemblies coordinator, who worked very hard to bring this program to our school.



Student Staff Spotlight

Mrs. Bell by Christy Chan



Ms. Bell is our school's speech therapist. She takes certain kids out of class, for 30-40 minutes, and helps them work on speech or reading skills. Ms. Bell plays games or uses different techniques on the kid to help them improve.

She has been working for the SCUSD for seven years. Ms. Bell has been a teacher at a different school for seven years. Her hobbies and interests are traveling, scrapbooking, and gardening. She also enjoys spending time with her family. She has a husband and a little girl.

To Ms. Bell, it is rewarding to see kids make progress. The best part of her job is working with many interesting students. She thinks the /r/ sound is the hardest sound for a kid to make. Even though not many kids know Ms. Bell, she still has an important job at this school.

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